

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA). In this respect, claim 1 has been amended, and new claim 10 has been added.

In the present invention, locking release holding means is attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state. The locking release holding means has a structure to be able to release the released state and return the storage box locking means to establish the locked state.

Namely, the locking release holding means can be released from the released state, so that the storage box locking means can lock the cassette storage box.

In paragraph 0003 of the specification of the application referred to as AAPA, it is stated that "the hook 53 is always urged downwardly with a spring 55 provided on the carriage 51." Also, in paragraph 0006 of the specification, it is stated that "when the gateway of the cassette storage box 52 is opened or closed, the operator has to pull and tilt the cassette storage box 52 or push back the cassette storage box 52 with one hand while the operator needs to lift up the hook 53 with the other hand in order to keep releasing the hook 53 from the locked state."

In the explanation of the specification, it is clear that the spring 55 is used to pull the hook 53 downwardly to engage a pin 54. Namely, the spring 55 has a function of engaging the hook 53 with the pin 54, as lock holding means, not locking release holding means.

In paragraph 6 of the Action, it was held that "As seen in Figure 10, the Examiner has further interpreted the broadest reasonable interpretation of a releases state as a state during

which the hook (fig. 10, #53) is not engaged with the pin (fig. 10, #54)."

The Examiner's interpretation is correct, but it is to be noted that the state as shown in Fig. 10 can not be maintained unless an operator holds the hook 53. In the present invention, locking release holding means releases the hook 12 without the operator, but in AAPA, the operator must hold the hook 53. The locking release holding means operating as in the invention is not disclosed or suggested in AAPA.

If the spring 55 is arranged to be inclined as in the invention, the spring 55 can move the hook 53 in different directions. However, AAPA does not disclose or suggest this kind of arrangement. The Examiner's opinion is derived from the assumption of the new arrangement of the spring not disclosed in AAPA, based on the specific arrangement of the present invention.

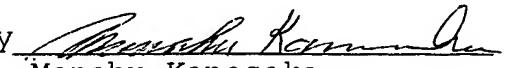
In claim 1, it is clearly recited that the locking release holding means is attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state. Further, it is recited that the locking release holding means has a structure to be able to release the released state and return the storage box locking means to establish the locked state.

The structure and function of the locking release holding means of claim 1 are entirely different from the operation of the spring 55 in AAPA. The locking release holding means of the invention is not disclosed or suggested in AAPA. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over AAPA.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT AGENTS, LLP

By 
Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785